

# City of Somerville



## 2015 BIKE + PEDESTRIAN COUNTING PROGRAM

Thank you for helping us make Somerville a safer and more comfortable place to bike and walk! The data we collect will help us better understand where we walk and bike the most, as well as the impact of improvements we make year to year – and help us plan future improvements.

### COUNTING DATES AND TIMES

Sign up here: <http://doodle.com/poll/a46q863bzrb9bh6uq95f8zu5/admin#table>

1. Pick a day from the following: September 29, 30, Oct 1, 6, 7, 8. We've provided a two-week period in order to allow greater flexibility.
2. Pick an hour within the following timeframes, depending on whether you signed up for AM or PM counts:
  - AM peak: 7:15 – 8:45 am
  - PM peak: 4:45 – 6:15 pm
3. Counting forms and additional instructions will be emailed to you directly after signing up.

You can change the day you planned to collect data (like the 6<sup>th</sup> instead of the 1<sup>st</sup>) but not the morning vs. afternoon time. If for any reason you cannot finish the locations you committed to collecting, please contact us as soon as possible, in order to have someone else cover that location. Contact info: Jennifer Molina, [jmolina@somervillema.gov](mailto:jmolina@somervillema.gov) or 617.625.6600 ext. 2514.

### INSTRUCTIONS

Please review the instructions and FAQs below before going to the site. **The City will also will also be hosting an optional training 9/24, 6-7 pm @ City Hall Annex, 50 Evergreen Ave.**

#### BRING:

1. These instructions
  2. Count/survey forms
  3. Pen or pencil and a spare
- If desired: Safety vest; clipboard.

#### ON SITE:

1. It is best to arrive at the site 10-15 minutes before the count period.
2. Find a safe location to conduct the survey or counts, making sure you can see all indicated movements on your form at all times. Please ensure your safety, and keep aware of your surroundings.
3. Don't forget to record the background information at the top of the count/survey form.

#### SENDING IN YOUR COUNTS:

After completing your count, please return your forms as soon as possible to:

Jennifer Molina  
City Hall, 3rd Floor  
93 Highland Avenue  
Somerville MA 02143

You can also email a scanned or EXCEL version to:

[jmolina@somervillema.gov](mailto:jmolina@somervillema.gov)

**Thank you for helping us make Somerville a world-class city for walking and biking!**

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Do I need to count for the entire 1.5 hour-long AM or PM collection time?**

A: No, count for one hour only. Choose the hour that works best for you, within the collection timeframe (7:15 - 8:45 AM or 4:45 -6:15 PM). The counts will be skewed if you count for more than one hour.

**Q: I was planning to collect data from 7:45 to 8:45 AM but I arrived 5 minutes late. Should I stop collecting data at 8:45 or count for an entire hour, until 8:50?**

A: Count for the entire hour, even if you go over the collection time by 5 or 10 minutes (7:15 - 8:45 AM or 4:45 -6:15 PM). The counts will be skewed if you count for less than one hour, or if you put the incorrect time on your sheet.

**Q: I was planning on collecting the data on Tuesday morning but a conflict arose in my schedule. Can I collect in the afternoon instead?**

A: No. You cannot change between AM and PM collection times. You can switch to a different day within the collection period, as long as you continue to keep the AM or PM time and location the same.

**Q: I was planning on collecting data on Wednesday afternoon but I had to work late – can I change to Thursday afternoon?**

A: Yes. As long as you keep the location and AM or PM collection time the same, you can collect data on any day in the collection period.

**Q: I was planning on counting today but it is raining. Should I count today or should I count a different day with better weather?**

A: You can collect when it is raining if you want, but feel free to switch to a day with better predicted weather as long as it is one of the designated days in the counting project. Make sure you still collect at your designated location and AM or PM time slot. Mark down the weather conditions on your sheet.

**Q: I have to suddenly go out of town. Can I collect on Friday when I get back?**

A: No. Collection days are only Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Contact Jennifer (info above) as soon as possible if you cannot complete your counts.

**Q: Historically, my location experiences high levels of movement. Can I bring a friend along to help count?**

A: You can if you would like, but it may be more confusing than helpful (i.e. double-counting, missing someone). Some of the ***busiest intersections are #2, 7, 13, 16, 17, and 35*** – if you would rather count at a slower intersection, sign up for a different location.

**Q: Someone is walking their bike. Should I count them as a bicyclist or a pedestrian?**

A: A pedestrian. They are traveling by foot, even though they are carrying a bike.

**Q: Someone is running, on a skateboard, or rollerblading. How should I count them?**

A: A pedestrian.

**Q: Someone is pushing a double-stroller with two kids in it. How do I mark this?**

A: Mark it as 3 pedestrians.

**Q: Someone is in a wheelchair or using assistive devices. How do I mark this?**

A: Mark as pedestrian.

**Q: Should I count people on both sides of the street (both sidewalks)?**

A: Yes, make sure to count on both sides of the street.

**Q: Do I count bikers going the wrong way down a one-way street?**

A: Yes. Mark the bicyclist under the appropriate movement (#1, 2, 3, or 4).

**Q: If someone turns the corner and crosses both screen lines, do I count them twice?**

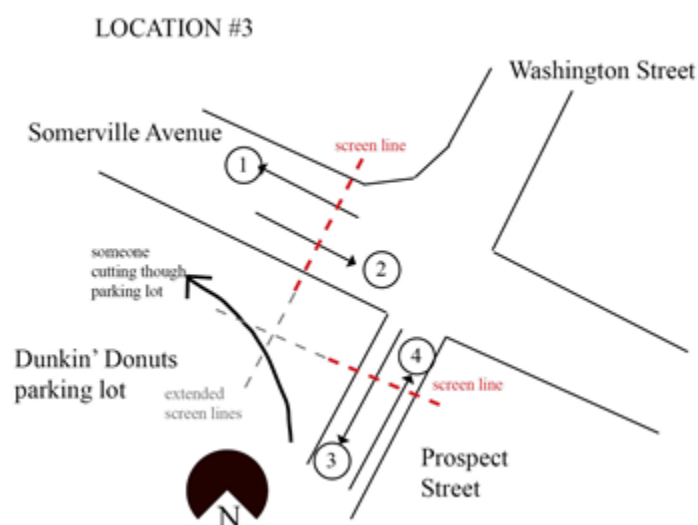
A: Yes, once for each movement they completed.

**Q: My screen line is just to the left of a bus stop/entrance to a store. Many people walk past my screen line but then enter the bus/store. Do I count them all?**

A: Yes. Count everyone who passes your screen line.

**Q: I am collecting data at an intersection with a parking lot/green space/vacant area at the corner. Many people cut through the parking lot/green space/vacant area and therefore don't cross my screen line. Should I count them on my sheet?**

A: Yes, if the person would have to pass your screen line if there were a building or other physical structure on the site, count them in your tally marks. This is especially relevant for **locations #3, 7, 10, 12, 15, 21, 24, 26, 29 and 31**. On the diagram below, even though the person doesn't technically cross your original screen line (shown in red), think of extending your screen line (dotted grey lines) to where the pedestrian is walking. In this case, the pedestrian (movement shown in dark arrow) would be counted for both movements # 4 and #1. If the parking lot had a building in the corner, the person would have walked along the sidewalk and therefore should be counted in the observations.



Thank you for  
participating!

